

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for managing a streaming media service, said method comprising:

receiving a request for a streaming media service from a client at a computer processor, said streaming media service comprising a media service component;

selecting, performed by said computer processor, a service location manager ~~at said computer processor~~ to which to provide said request from a plurality of service location managers;

selecting, performed by ~~at~~ said computer processor, a service provider₁ to which to assign said media service component₁ from a plurality of service providers of a network, wherein said selecting said service provider is performed by said service location manager;

informing, performed by ~~at~~ said computer processor, said service provider of said assignment to perform said media service component, causing said service provider to prepare to perform said streaming media service on streaming media; and

providing, performed by ~~at~~ said computer processor, information to said client, wherein said information is for locating and contacting said service provider to receive said streaming media from said service provider without utilizing said service location manager.

Claims 2-37 (canceled)

38. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises:

maintaining a record comprising identifying information of a service location manager among said plurality of service location managers; and
selecting said service location manager according to said record.

39. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises:

maintaining a record comprising a prioritized list of at least one service location manager among said plurality of service location managers; and
selecting said service location manager according to the order of priority of said list of said record.

40. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises:

maintaining a record comprising identifying information for a set of service location managers among said plurality of service location managers; and
selecting said service location manager randomly from said record.

41. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises:

maintaining a record comprising identifying information for a set of service location managers among said plurality of service location managers; and
selecting said service location manager in a round robin manner from said record.

42. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises a comparison of processing loads of at least two service location managers among said plurality of service location managers.

43. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager comprises a comparison of available resources of a first set of service providers supervised by said service location manager and available resources of a second set of service providers supervised by a second service location manager.

44. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager is based on an estimate of a network communication condition between two entities connected by the network.

45. (Original) The method as described in Claim 44, wherein said estimate of said network communication condition is associated with said client.

46. (Original) The method as described in Claim 44, wherein said estimate of said network communication condition is associated with a content source of said streaming media.

47. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said selecting said service location manager is based on one of the group consisting of: pending service request queue length of a service location manager, expected latency of a service location manager for assigning said service request, and available network communication bandwidth of a service location manager.

48. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, further comprising:
notifying a second service location manager among said plurality of service location managers of the assignment of said service provider to perform said media service component.

49. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, further comprising:
notifying a second service location manager among said plurality of service location managers of the completion of performance of said media service component.

50. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, further comprising:

a second service location manager assuming the role of said service location manager if said service location manager is determined to be non-responsive.

51. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a record comprising identifying information of a set of service location managers among said plurality of service location managers, each service location manager of said set of service location managers supervising said service provider; and

notifying said set of service location managers according to said record of said assignment of said service provider to perform said media service component.

52. (Original) The method as described in Claim 51, wherein said maintaining and said notifying is performed by said service provider or said service location manager.

53. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a record comprising identifying information of a set of service location managers among said plurality of service location managers, each service location manager of said set of service location managers supervising said service provider; and

notifying said set of service location managers according to said record of the completion of performance of said media service component by said service provider.

54. (Original) The method as described in Claim 53, wherein said maintaining and said notifying is performed by said service provider or said service location manager.

55. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said service provider is supervised by more than one service location manager among said plurality of service location managers.

56. (Currently Amended) A computer system for providing streaming content to a client device, said system comprising:

a plurality of service location managers, wherein said plurality of service location managers are hardware nodes;

a plurality of service providers, each service provider capable of performing a service on an item of streaming input content to produce said streaming content, wherein said plurality of service providers are hardware computer systems; and

a portal providing a first point of contact for said client device, said portal for receiving from said client device a request for performance of said service on an item of streaming input content, said portal for selecting a service location

manager, to which to provide said request, from said plurality of service location managers, said service location manager for receiving said request from said portal and for selecting a service provider to perform said service from said plurality of service providers and informing said service provider that it is assigned ~~of said assignment~~ to perform said service on said streaming input content to produce said streaming content and for providing said service provider with information to transfer communication from said portal to said service provider for providing said streaming input content to said client device from said service provider, wherein said portal is a hardware node.

57. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said portal maintains a record comprising a prioritized listing of at least one service location manager among said plurality of service location managers and selects said service location manager in order of priority according to said prioritized listing.

58. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said portal maintains a record comprising identifying information of a set of service location managers among said plurality of service location managers and selects said service location manager in a round robin manner from said record.

59. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said portal selects said service location manager by comparing processing loads of at least two service location managers among said plurality of service location managers.

60. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said portal selects said service location manager by comparing available resources of a first set of service providers supervised by said service location manager and available resources of a second set of service providers supervised by a second service location manager.

61. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said portal selects said service location manager based on an estimate of a network communication condition between two entities connected by the network.

62. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said service location manager notifies a second service location manager among said plurality of service location managers of said assignment of said service provider to perform said service.

63. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said portal determines if said service location manager of said plurality of service location managers is non-responsive.

64. (Original) The system of Claim 63, wherein said portal activates a second service location manager of said plurality of service location managers to

assume the role of said service location manager, provided said portal determines said service location manager to be non-responsive.

65. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said service provider is supervised by more than one service location manager of said plurality of service location managers.

66. (Original) The system of Claim 65, wherein said service provider maintains a record comprising identifying information of service location managers that supervise it.

67. (Original) The system of Claim 66, wherein said service provider notifies said service location managers that supervise it of said assignment to perform said service.

68. (Original) The system of Claim 66, wherein said service provider notifies said service location managers that supervise it of completion of performance of said service by said service provider.

69. (Original) The system of Claim 65, wherein said service location manager maintains a record comprising identifying information of a second service location manager that also supervises said service provider.

70. (Original) The system of Claim 69, wherein said service location manager notifies said second service location manager of said assignment of said service provider to perform said service.

71. (Original) The system of Claim 69, wherein said service location manager notifies said second service location manager of completion of performance of said service by said service provider.

72. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said service provider is supervised by a first service location manager, and said first service location manager transfers supervision of said service provider to a second service location manager.

73. (Original) The system of Claim 72, wherein said transfer is based on a computational load of said first service location manager.

74. (Original) The system of Claim 72, wherein said transfer is based on availability of resources of a service provider supervised by said second service location manager.

75. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said service provider is selected to be supervised by said service location manager based on a network

communication condition between said service location manager and said service provider.

76. (Original) The system of Claim 56, wherein said plurality of service location managers comprises a master service location manager that monitors the status of other service location managers of said plurality of service location managers.